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—Associated Press

William Thoresen III and his wife, Louise, turn themselves in on weapons charge.

Cannon Collector Held, Mental Test Ordered

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — "I just collect cannons as ornaments," William E. Thoresen III said yesterday while being arraigned. "Every lawn ought to have one."

Thoresen, 30, had surrendered to a U. S. marshall and was charged in Federal District Court with illegal possession of a fully automatic weapon.

He also is wanted in New York on a charge he illegally bought a machine gun.

Federal agents last Friday raided Thorsen's home and reported finding 97,000 pounds of weapons and ammunition there, including a 37mm cannon.

Another Lot in East Bay

They said another 45,000 pounds was picked up yesterday at shipping yards in the San Francisco East Bay area, consigned to Thoresen from eastern armaments firms, including the Potomac Arms Corp. of Alexandria, Va.

Thoresen's wife, Louise, also 30, was arrested during the Friday raid and faces charges in San Francisco Superior Court that she stored arms illegally. She is free on $20,000 bail.

Thoresen is the son of William E. Thoreson II, president of the Great Western Steel Co. of Chicago.

J. W. (Jake) Ehrlich, Thoresen's attorney, said, "This man is being penalized for his business ideas. He wanted to open a business to provide guns and munitions as lawn ornaments."

Thoresen posted a $55,000 certified check after the arraignment and was freed in bail.

Mental Exam. Ordered

Judge Oliver J. Carter rejected a federal attorney's request that Thoresen be committed for 30 days and examined by psychiatrists. The judge instead ordered the defendant to have an examination made himself before May 10.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Jerrold Ladar told the court that among the weapons found was an 81mm mortar. Among the seizures in the shipping yards, he said, was an AR-15, the most modern automatic rifle available to U.S. combat troops in Vietnam.